

578  
The Daniel Demarest House  
404 Washington Avenue  
Borough of Dumont  
Bergen County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-657

HABS  
NJ  
2-DUMO  
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Daniel Demarest House  
404 Washington Avenue  
Borough of Dumont  
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Owner and occupant: John W. Foster

Dates of Erection: 1724 (per inscribed datestone) and  
partly restored ca. 1850 after fire

Architect: Unknown

Builders: Daniel Demarest (1685-1767) original owner;  
restored by Abraham G. Demarest (1819-1889)  
after fire

Present Condition: As restored after interior damage  
by fire about 1850, at which time the brick  
front wall evidently replaced the original  
stone. All modern conveniences installed

Number of Stories: One and one-half over cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - red sandstone

Exterior walls - main unit has red sandstone  
sides and rear of date earlier than  
brick front to eaveline all around, above  
which are frame gable ends. Minor unit  
has timber frame clapboarded. Porch  
not original

Interior walls - stone partywall and frame  
partitions

Chimneys - brick, built into inside of gable  
end walls

Roof - gable with wide overhanging eaves.  
Dormer windows not original

Historical Data:

This house corresponds in location with the  
one indicated and marked as that of "Dan Demaree" on the  
west side of Schraalenburgh Road on Erskine's military

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map of Bergen County dated 1778-9(a). Its identity with that house, subject only to its having since been partly rebuilt after damage from fire in 1850, is established by search of the title in the County records, a digest of which appears hereafter.

The plot on which the house stands was described in a deed of 1869, as having the Schraalenburgh Road as its eastern boundary and the "old patent line" as its western. The latter refers to that patent of some 2000 acres granted by the Lords Proprietors of the Province to the pioneer David Demarest Sr. in 1686 as an addition to his previously patented lands which extended east from the bank of Hackensack River to that line(b).

By a written agreement dated 16 October 1693 between John des Marest, Samuel Des Marest and John Durie (guardian of the children of David des Marest Jr. deceased) being the three sons and equal devisees of the real estate of David Des Marest Sr., the patentee above-named, division of his lands was made among them as follows: The "little mill, house and barn" with the lands (on the west bank of Hackensack River) belonging to them were awarded to the eldest son John: the "great corn mill" and one-half of the saw mill (on the east side of the river) to the children of the deceased son David and to the youngest son Samuel, half and half,

(a) "Original Survey for His Exc'y. George Washington by Robert Erskine F.R.S. geographer to the Army, 1778-79", now in collections of the New York Historical Society. Reproduced in print by the Bergen County Historical Society 1920. Part of same reprinted in The Demarest Family 1936, opp. p. 507.

(b) D. D. Demarest, The Huguenots on the Hackensack, 1886.

with the right to take wood on the other side of the river for the mill, Samuel to render the portions of the children and of himself as evenly as possible so that they and he shall have each a quantity of land on the same side of the river equal to that which belongs to the small mill first mentioned as awarded to John, "On which side also they shall build at common charges a house and barn of ye same bigness as ye house and barn which are in ye portion of John, for ye use and property of ye children of David and of Samuel Des Marest equally according to ye division." (c)

It is said that by this division, the children of the deceased son David<sup>2</sup> Des Marest received lands at "The Flatts" in the present borough of Oradell, apparently extending into that of Dumont, and that his eldest son David settled near the latter borough "as also did Daniel who built a house there in 1724, still standing but rebuilt on the old lines after a fire," and that Peter built a house at The Flatts, later rebuilt and recently removed to a new site nearby, while Jacobus lived at Old Bridge (NJ-11) and Benjamin the youngest son may have inherited the old house (NJ-16) near the cemetery. (d)

The statement quoted above that Daniel<sup>3</sup> Demarest built a house in 1724 near Dumont is evidently based on the evidence of a stone inscribed "Daniel & Rebeca Demarest Mey 22, 1724" which is discovered in the upper part of the rear wall of the house in Dumont which is here surveyed.

(c) See copy in full publ. in The Demarest Family 1936, p. 488

(d) R. F. Bailey, Pre-Rev. Dutch Houses and Families, 1936, p. 285

This Daniel<sup>3</sup> Demarest (1685-1767) died intestate<sup>(e)</sup> supposedly in this house as originally built, having disposed of his real estate by ante mortem deeds to his children, among whom was a son Daniel Jr.

Daniel<sup>4</sup> Demarest<sup>(f)</sup> of Schraalenburgh\*, Hackensack Township, Bergen County, in his will of 22 June 1803, devised to his wife Lenah all goods which were her property before marriage, and to his "son Gerret all my real estate.....forever, he paying \$500 to my daughter Bailetye and to the two sons and daughter of my daughter Rebeckah deceased." This testator is obviously the "Dan Demaree" mentioned first above as owner of the house (here considered) in 1778-9. The title from him to the present owners is found on the County records.

Gerret<sup>5</sup> D. Demarest<sup>(g)</sup>, sole devisee of the real estate of his father in 1803 as abovesaid, conveyed the homestead by an unrecorded deed Before 1808 to his father's first cousin, Peter J. Demarest, as recited hereafter, and removed to Passaic.

(e) Daniel<sup>3</sup> Demarest, b. 1 Feb. 1685, 4th of the 5 sons of David<sup>2</sup> Demarest and his wife Rachel Cresson, d. 30 Mar. 1767, mar. 2 Aug. 1707 at Hackensack Rebecca De Groot and were members of the R.D. Ch. of Schraalenburgh, Bergen Co., 1733. They had as youngest of 12 children, a son Daniel of whom further. (The Demarest Family, 1936. p. 28)

\* Now the Borough of Dumont

(f) Daniel<sup>4</sup> Demarest, b. 2 July 1728, d. 9 Nov. 1802, mar. (1) 9 June 1752 Cornelia Lyddeker, by whom he had 6 children incl. an eldest son Garret of whom further, and mar. (2) 26 Nov. 1790 Helena Van Voorhesen wid. of John Hopper. (Ibid. p. 57)

(g) Gerret<sup>5</sup> Demarest, bap. 13 Feb. 1757 at Schraalenburgh Bergen Co., eld. son of Daniel Demarest and his 1st wf. Cornelia Lyddeker, removed and d. 24 Jan. 1833, bur. in R. D. Chyd. of Passaic. (Ibid. p. 101)

Peter J.<sup>4</sup> Demarest(h) the next owner of this house but evidently residing elsewhere in the same Hackensack Township, made his will on 14 June 1808 (proved 14 November next) in which he devised to his wife Annatye all his estate during her widowhood and afterwards to his son James P. Demarest the northerly two-thirds of the lot and farm bought of Garret D. Demarest with the buildings thereon, and to his daughter Mary wife of Nicause Kip the southerly third of that farm. To three other daughters, Rachel, Martintye and Margaret wife of Weart Banta, he devised "my homestead lot and land and premises whereon I now live, in Hackensack Township."

James P.<sup>5</sup> Demarest(i) who apparently was residing in the house (here considered) at the time it was devised to him under the terms of his father's will in 1808 as abovesaid, evidently continued therein until his death. By his will dated Hackensack Township, 8 September 1852 and proved 9 November next, he bequeathed to his wife Betsy various articles of furniture and the use of one room in the dwelling house during her widowhood, all the residue of the estate to his son Peter.

(h) Peter J.<sup>4</sup> Demarest, b. 14 Nov. 1735, d. 14 June 1808, a son of Jacobus<sup>3</sup> Demarest (whose house on River Edge Road about 2 miles S.W. of the one here considered we have surveyed as NJ-11) and his 2nd wf. Margrietje Cozine Haring, mar. 28 Sept. 1764 Annatie Durie who d. 4 Mar. 1820; both bur. at the North Church, Schraalenburgh (Dumont). 8 children incl. Jacobus (James) b. 22 May 1779, Mary b. 2 Mar. 1783 who mar. Nicausey Kip, Rachel b. 19 June 1773 who mar. Henry Naugle, Martintye b. 31 Aug. 1776, and Margaret b. 22 Apr. 1786, who mar. Wiert Banta. (Ibid. p. 53)

(i) James P.<sup>5</sup> Demarest, b. 22 May and bapt. 6 June 1779 in R.D. Ch. Schraalenburgh (now Dumont), only son of Peter J. Demarest and his wife Annatie Durie, d. 17 Sept. 1852 having mar. Lavinia Demarest who d. 24 June 1830. Both bur. at North Ch. Schraalenburgh. (Ibid. no. 282) He mar. 2nd Elizabeth Doremus (1795-1865), widow of Gerrit A. Demarest (1800-1822), who were parents of Abraham G. Demarest (1819-1889) mentioned hereinafter.

Peter J. A.<sup>6</sup> Demarest, son and residuary devisee of James P. Demarest as above stated, supposedly was living in the house at the date of his will, 28 August 1856 (proved 7 October next) in which he devised to his wife Effie the use and income of his estate during her widowhood, and afterward to his son Peter Edwin Demarest, and authorized the wife and the other executors to sell any or all of the real estate. The son died intestate and his mother Effie Demarest was appointed administratrix of his estate on 22 June 1857, she being also his sole heir.

By deed of 10 May 1861 Frederick Wortendyke and wife Effie (formerly widow of Peter J. A. Demarest abovenamed), being of Washington Township (and so not residing in the house here surveyed), conveyed it to her late husband's step brother, Abraham G. Demarest of Hackensack Township, for \$1625, describing the 114 acre Homestead Farm as being in the latter township and "late the property of James P. Demarest and Peter J. A. Demarest deceased", bounded north and east by land of said Abraham G. Demarest, south by those of Jacob Quackenbush decd., John Demott and Maria wife of Nicause Kipp, and west by woodland late of Henry J. Zabriskie and others.

By a deed of same date with that above cited, Rachel Naugle and Nicause Kipp and his wife Maria, all of Hackensack Township (the two women being daughters and heirs of Peter J.<sup>4</sup> Demarest previously mentioned herein) confirmed the title to Abraham G. Demarest for \$4500.

Abraham G. Demarest who thus purchased the property in 1861 conveyed some 65 acres thereof to Susan A. Tyson wife of John Tyson, all parties being of Hackensack Township, by deed of 1st November 1869, in which it is described as bounded north by David Demarest, south by that of Nicause Kipp deceased, east by Schraalenburgh Road and West by "the old patent line" which is mentioned in the second paragraph of this account. This grantee was residing in the same Township of Palisade if not in the house itself at the date of her will, 29 August 1873, in which she devised her estate to her husband and her children. But the property was seized by the sheriff as the result of

legal proceedings to foreclose the mortgage pertinent to the above conveyance and was conveyed by him back to Abraham G. Demarest by deed of 26 January 1888, in which the property, divided into six tracts, was described as being in Palisades Township. (j)

Having thus recovered and retained possession of the property, Abraham G. Demarest died in another house in the same village of Schraalenburgh, Palisades Township, intestate on 21 December 1889, aged 70 years, leaving a widow Jane (Voorhis) and a daughter Mary A. Demarest, (k) both of that place, and a son Garret A. Demarest of Hoboken, New Jersey.

(j) C. C. Pease, Atlas of Bergen Co., 1876, p. 80 map of Palisades Twp. shows this house marked Abm. G. Demarest on west side of Schraalenburgh Rd., betw. Henry Putnam on north and Isaac Dixon on south. Palisades Twp. was created 1872 from Hackensack Twp., extending from Hackensack R. to Hudson R., bounded N. by Harrington Tp., S. by Englewood.

(k) Miss Mary A. Demarest of 230 Washington Avenue, Dumont, writes under date of 24 Oct. 1940:- Peter J.A. Demarest was the son of James P. Demarest, my father's stepfather. The latter owned the house at 404 Washington Avenue at the time it was burned to the ground. I do not know the year nor if the walls were taken down and rebuilt on the old foundations. My father, Abraham G. Demarest, a builder, rebuilt the house as directed by his stepfather. It is still the same, only the dormer windows and porch were added by Mr. Tysen. As to the stone in the north wall, I never knew about it until after we left there, and I am sure that it is where it had always been, for I know my father would never have put it anywhere else but where it was before the house burned. I cannot give any history about it. Peter J.A. Demarest's widow Effie inherited the farm after her son Peter Edwin died, and as my grandmother Elizabeth (Doremus), widow successively of Gerrit A. and of James P. Demarest, had her right to live there as long as she lived, she had my father, Abraham G. Demarest, buy the farm. We lived there until a year after she died, when my father sold it to John Tysen. My family moved from there to where I am now living when I was eight years old, so all I know about the house is what I have heard my mother say.



These three heirs conveyed the same property, excepting 15 acres but including the house here surveyed, to John W. and Charles O. Foster, both of Palisades Township, by their deed of 25 April 1891.

The last named having died intestate 3 March 1915 in the borough of Dumont (formerly Schraalenburg), having lived in this house there, and leaving children John W. Foster 2nd, Isaac S. Foster, Nina M. Dixon and Howard C. Foster, and widow Mary G. Foster who died 24 December 1924, as his heirs. The other grantee named, John W. Foster, also lived in this house and devised his interest in it to his nephew John W. Foster 2nd by his will dated 17 April 1925 and proved 13 Oct. 1928. The last named purchased the interests of the other heirs by deed of 22 March 1929, all the parties being residents of Dumont, and he remains as owner and occupant of the house at the time of our survey thereof in August 1940.

Reference:

Search of title in the land and probate records of Bergen County by Joseph Benenati, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 26 September 1940

Lewis D. Cook  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

7/10/50 12/1/50